

-12-

CLAIMS:

1. An instrument assembly for use in orthopaedic surgery, which comprises a component which is to be positioned within a body cavity to engage a bone and which has at least one bar portion extending across it, and a manipulator having at least one clasp for engaging the bar portion so as to fasten the component to the manipulator, the clasp comprising a hook and a keeper pin, in which:

- a. the hook can be displaced relative to the keeper pin between an open position in which the keeper pin is retracted relative to the hook so that the hook is open at one side to allow the bar portion to be slid between the hook and the keeper pin, and a closed position in which the keeper pin closes the hook sufficiently to prevent the bar portion from being removed from under the hook,
- b. at least one of the contacting surfaces of the bar portion and the hook which contact one another when the bar portion is inserted between the hook and the keeper pin, or the surface of the bar portion which contacts the keeper pin, provides a ramp so that sliding the bar portion between the hook and the keeper pin causes the hook to be displaced relative to the keeper pin, towards the open position, and
- c. the hook is biased towards the closed position.

2. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the hook is located on a plate so that the bar portion fits between the hook and the surface of the plate when the component is fastened to the manipulator, and in which the keeper pin extends through an aperture in the plate.

3. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the manipulator includes a shaft on which the clasp is mounted, in which the hook part of the clasp moves relative to the shaft during the said relative displacement between open and closed positions.

4. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the manipulator includes a shaft on which the clasp is mounted, in which the keeper pin part of the clasp moves

-13-

relative to the shaft during the said relative displacement between open and closed positions.

5. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the ramp is provided by the surface of the hook which contacts the bar portion when the bar portion is inserted between the hook and the keeper pin.

6. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 5, in which the hook includes a ramp portion which engages the bar portion while the bar portion is inserted between the hook and the keeper pin, and a locked portion which engages the bar portion which the component is fastened to the manipulator.

7. An instrument assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the manipulator includes at least two clasps which are arranged rotationally symmetrically around a central point, and the component includes corresponding bar portions, so that the bar portions can be positioned in corresponding clasps by relative rotation between the component and the manipulator around the said central point.

8. An instrument assembly for use in orthopaedic surgery, which comprises a component which is to be positioned within a body cavity to engage a bone and which has at least one bar portion extending across it, and a manipulator having at least one clasp for engaging the bar portion so as to fasten the component to the manipulator, the clasp comprising a hook and a keeper pin, in which:

- a. one of the hook and the keeper pin can be displaced relative to the other between an open position in which the keeper pin is retracted relative to the hook so that the hook is open at one side to allow the bar portion to be slid between the hook and the keeper pin, and a closed position in which the keeper pin at least partially closes the hook to prevent the bar portion from being removed from under the hook,
- b. at least one of the contacting surfaces of the bar portion and the hook which contact one another when the bar portion is inserted between the hook and the keeper pin, or the surface of the bar portion which contacts the keeper pin,

-14-

provides a ramp so that sliding the bar portion between the hook and the keeper pin causes one of the hook and the keeper pin to be displaced relative to the other, towards the open position, and

c. the hook and the keeper pin are biased towards the closed position.